

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT
MATTHEW NEWMAN UPON RE-
CEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED
FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Master Sergeant Matthew Newman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Master Sergeant Matthew Newman epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Master Sergeant Matthew Newman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING CAPTAIN JOHN DAVID
BLENCOWE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain John David Blencowe of the California Highway Patrol in recognition of his retirement and 25 years of service to the people of California.

Mr. Blencowe was born on Travis Air Force Base to Teresa and James Blencowe. He attended the University of California, Berkeley from 1989 to 1990 and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Davis in 1995.

In 1997, Mr. Blencowe graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy and served as an Officer in the Central Los Angeles area until 1999. Following his service in Los Angeles, he worked in the San Francisco Area, Solano Area and Golden Gate Division, where Mr. Blencowe was promoted to Sergeant in 2006. From 2006 to 2013, Mr. Blencowe was Team Leader for the Golden Gate Division Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. From 2014–2015, he served in the San Jose Area before returning to the Golden Gate Division in 2016. Mr. Blencowe received his final assignment as Commander of the Napa Area in 2018 and was promoted to the rank of Captain.

For more than two decades, Mr. Blencowe has provided exemplary service in the face of unprecedented challenges. He has served with the Napa Air Operations Unit during the 2017 Atlas Peak Fire and responded to the active shooter incident at the Veterans Home of California, Yountville. In 2020, Mr. Blencowe provided critical support to multiple natural disasters in the Napa Area including the Glass and LNU Lightning Complex fires.

Mr. Blencowe is a devoted husband to his wife Melissa and the proud father of three daughters, Erin, Sarah and Emma.

Madam Speaker, I thank Captain Blencowe for his 25 years of selfless service and commitment to the people of California. His efforts have undoubtedly made our state a safer place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF
MARGARET A. MIMS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of a truly honorable public servant, Fresno County Sheriff, Margaret A. Mims.

Sheriff Mims has been a fixture in the Fresno County community for decades, serving as a peace officer for over 25 years. During her tenure, she has held the roles of Deputy Sheriff Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Sheriff, and finally Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner, a position she has held since 2006.

Sheriff Mims has led the Fresno County Sheriffs Department with distinction and honor for over 15 years and has been recognized by numerous organizations, universities, and community groups for her leadership. During her time as Sheriff, she has received the 31st Assembly District Woman of the Year Award, been named a "100 Stars for 100 Years" by the Fresno City College Centennial Alumna, received the Girls Scout's Woman Inspiring Girls Award, and has been named a Distinguished Alumni at both Fresno City College and National University. These are just some

of the many recognitions and awards she has received throughout her career and are a true testament to her impact on our community.

I want to personally state how thankful I am for the dedicated service of Sheriff Mims. Her courage, leadership, and commitment are truly inspiring, and I consider it an honor and a privilege to have worked with her and her office for so many years.

I urge all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring such a distinguished member of our Central Valley community, Sheriff Margaret M. Mims.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE LIFE
AND LEGACY OF HIS EXCEL-
LENCE PRINCE ASIEL BEN
ISRAEL

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, these words are attributed to Sir Issac Watts, who wrote, and I paraphrase, "Were I so tall as to reach from pole to pole or grasp the ocean with my span, I must be measured by my soul, for the mind is the measure of the man."

Trying to describe Prince Asiel Ben Israel is no easy task because so many characteristics of desirability. He was a man of principle, a great husband, a provider, protector, a wonderful father, grandfather, great grandfather, a patriarch, and the leader of a tribe. He was a people's Prince born, educated, trained and prepared to lead. He was a visionary who understood that you cannot lead where you don't go and you cannot teach what you don't know. Prince was always searching for truth and knowledge and was exceptionally passionate about practically everything that he did or cared about.

He loved people, and I mean people, and he had a humanitarian spirit and expressed that, "all life sacred." it is now 4:00 am, in the morning, so let me wrap this up. I was blessed to spend many fortunate, precious, and meaningful hours with Prince. We traveled at least ten times to Africa, South Africa, West Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. Many of these times it was just the two of us, and talk, talk, talk we did. We met with Heads of State, the ANC, Winnie Mandela, Members of Parliaments, academicians, grassroots groups, clerics, giants of industry, and sometimes I thought Prince was the greatest advocate and diplomat on earth, both at the same time, and he was always on point.

A gifted intellectual spiritual leader who used his knowledge, talents and skills to advance the causes of his people (all caring people), as he journeyed through a lifetime of service to humanity.

As I walked away from our last meeting with two of his sons and a government official from Ghana a few weeks ago, I had a feeling, first

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of all, servant of all, you shall transcend all, and as I walked down to my car on Michigan Avenue humming to myself, "Swing low sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home."

Good night my friend.

HONORING MAJOR KATIE LUNNING UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Katie Lunning of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

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On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Katie Lunning of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR BRIAN SCHELLER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize United States Space Force Major Brian K. Scheller on the completion of his Legislative Fellowship with my personal office. Major Scheller has been assigned to my staff since January 2022 and has done an outstanding job as my trusted advisor for national security, foreign operations, space/technology, and veteran policy issues.

Currently a Systems Engineer and Acquisition Project Manager for the United States Space Force, Major Scheller started his military service by graduating from the United

States Air Force Academy in 2010. While at the academy, Major Scheller was on the school's basketball team and served as an Assistant Coach for the first year following his commissioning. Throughout his 12 years of service, Major Scheller has been assigned as the F-16 Engineering Liaison at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, as well as being deployed for 7 months at Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates where he was responsible for leading construction and design projects at the base.

Stateside, Major Scheller served as the Chief of the Director's Action Group where he responded to Congressional inquiries for the Director of the National Security Space Launch Program. He also served as a Government Mission Integration Manager and led day-to-day operations that culminated in the successful launch of a Lockheed Martin GPS III satellite on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

During his fellowship in my office, Major Scheller was instrumental in helping my staff and I develop the fiscal year 2023 House Defense appropriations bill. His direct contributions will help provide our nation's uniformed men and women with the resources needed to defend our great Nation. Additionally, Texas' 12th district is home to numerous DOD priorities including the F-35 program, Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, and thousands of Active Guard and Reserve service members. Major Scheller quickly built a relationship with these entities, mastered their issues, and was essential in helping me fight for them. Additionally, Major Scheller coordinated dozens of engagements with senior administration officials, foreign heads of state, and industry leaders; and was a tireless advocate for servicemembers and veterans.

Servicemembers like Major Brian Scheller are the reason why our Nation's defense forces are the best in the world. On behalf of the 12th District of Texas, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Brian, his wife Christine, and children Jacob and Keegan, as they continue their military journey in service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING NORTHEAST WISCONSIN'S 2022 VETERAN OF THE YEAR, MICHAEL WEAVER

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Northeast Wisconsin's 2022 Veteran of the Year, Michael Weaver. His service on and off the battlefield in Vietnam, his dedication to fellow veterans back home, and his devotion to Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District make him well-deserving of this recognition.

The Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year is chosen annually by a selection committee consisting of members from the veteran and civilian community. It recognizes veterans in Northeast Wisconsin who continue to demonstrate service, excellence, and dedication in all that they do.

A longtime resident of Kaukauna, Wisconsin, Michael served in the Army as a medic during the Vietnam War. He enlisted in 1966 and served for 3 years before receiving

an Honorable discharge. During Michael's crucial service he received numerous medals and achievements, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal. Inspired by his father's service as a Combat Engineer in World War II, he enlisted as a Medical Corpsman in the Army after graduating high school. Once deployed to Vietnam in 1968, he started in a prisoner of war medical facility where he was charged with keeping enemy troops alive. He then returned to California to the Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco where he provided care to the wounded service members who had made it back home until his discharge in 1969.

While Michael's service to Vietnam will never be forgotten, his commitment to serving the men and women of Northeast Wisconsin after he hung up his uniform is just as impressive. After leaving Vietnam he has dedicated his life to giving back and he has done that every day since his discharge. Some key examples of his dedication to our community include: Past President and Lt. Governor for Wisconsin Kiwanis Club, Chairman of the Board for the Heart of the Valley Chamber, Special Olympics Fox Valley coach, Emergency Medical Technician, rifle team member for Kaukauna VFW, a mentor for the Outagamie County Veterans Treatment Court, and chaplain of the Disabled American Veterans Appleton Post. Since his retirement from his civilian career, he has placed wreaths on nearly 1,200 grave markers for veterans, served as Senior Captain of the Patriot Guard, and also managed American flag poles for numerous organizations throughout the Fox Cities.

One impressive feat noted by one of Michael's nominators was that he recently helped honor two of Kaukauna's oldest veterans by reuniting them after 75 years through the VFW's Golf with a Vet event. He has clearly demonstrated a commitment to excellence, service, and dedication throughout all that he does in his life.

Most notably, Michael dedicates a substantial amount of time to St. Paul Elder Services in Kaukauna. Michael has spent the last decade dedicating time with veterans who are on hospice or end of life care with St. Paul Elder Services. As an Army medic veteran, he often connects with other veterans in a way that civilians simply cannot. From Vietnam to Kaukauna Michael continues to walk with veterans through an extremely challenging time.

Madam Speaker, I once again congratulate Michael Weaver for his service to Northeast Wisconsin, the veteran community, and on being the 2022 Northeast Wisconsin Veteran of the Year. Northeast Wisconsin can be proud of the many great veterans who call the 8th Congressional District home, and I urge all colleagues to join me in recognizing these outstanding men and women.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY VINCENT "VINCE" FORD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader and

longtime friend, Henry Vincent Ford. Vince, as he was affectionately known, transitioned from this life on December 6, 2022, in Columbia, South Carolina. His work fighting for equity in historically underserved communities has left an indelible mark on the Midlands of South Carolina.

Vince Ford was born on March 18, 1958, in Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated from A.C. Flora High School and went on to pursue a bachelor's degree at Benedict College in Columbia. He received a master's degree from my alma mater, South Carolina State University. Vince dedicated his life to bettering the Columbia community and Midlands' area, and I was fortunate to get to know Vince well throughout his service to his county and state.

In 1992, Vince was elected to the Richland One School Board. During his nearly quarter century tenure on the Board, he served as chairman a remarkable eight times. Vince was a fierce advocate for children. He led the charge on a bond referendum which led to both the improvement and building of several school buildings. He also spearheaded the vote to create a tax increment financing district which would lead to the creation of important community projects, such as EdVenture Children's Museum, Three Rivers Greenway, and Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

In 1997, at the same time of his service on the School Board, Vince was invited to establish and lead the Office of Community Health at Prisma Health. Throughout his time there, he fought for the needs of the community's uninsured and medically underserved. After his retirement from the School Board in 2016, he officially became the Vice President of Community Affairs at Prisma Health. He was a faithful advocate of community health through his work with Prisma for over 25 years. He was fully committed to tackling disparities in health treatment in the Midlands, impacting the lives of countless people.

Through his community leadership, Vince earned several awards and accolades. For his time on the School Board, he was named Outstanding School Board Member for the Sixth Congressional District and All-State School Board Member by the South Carolina School Boards Association. In 2018, he was inducted into the Richland One Hall of Fame. He was also recognized on the Columbia Housing Authority Wall of Fame and received the Elaine Whitelaw Volunteer Service Award from the March of Dimes. The programs he led were also recognized for their success, with his program for drug and alcohol school prevention earning national recognition.

Vince was also an active member of several civic and social organizations in the community. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation. In addition, he served as chairperson on the State Education and the Columbia Branch Education committees. He was a proud and very active supporter of Benedict College throughout his life and was a member of its Board of Trustees. He was also a lifelong member of the NAACP and a fellow brother of Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

Vince is survived by his wife, Patricia, and their two children, Marcus and Robyn.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Vince Ford. His unwavering commitment to serving his community should be an inspira-

tion to us all. He will be sorely missed and well-remembered by all who had the honor of knowing him.

HONORING MAJOR PETE TRAYLOR UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Pete Traylor of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Pete Traylor epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Pete Traylor of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a vote I missed on December 8, 2022. I was on my way to the House Floor to cast my vote when the vote was closed with 75 members not having voted. Had I been present for Roll Call vote 515 on the motion to adjourn offered by Rep. ROY, I would have voted no. I believe that it is essential that Congress finish the business it came here to do this week and pass the National Defense Authorization Act to support our service members and their families.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER JOHN
C. MOORE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor councilmember John Moore in honor of nearly a decade of service to the Cotati City Council.

Mr. Moore was born in Lynn, Massachusetts to Gloria and Edmund Moore. After attending Indian Valley Community College and Santa Rosa Junior College, he ran his own insurance brokerage for 15 years. Mr. Moore was elected Cotati Chamber of Commerce President in 1999 and awarded Cotati citizen of the year in 2005.

In 2013, Mr. Moore was appointed to the Cotati City Council and was subsequently re-elected in 2014 and 2018. During this time, he served multiple terms as both Vice Mayor and Mayor. Mr. Moore has also been Chair of the Cotati Rent Appeals Board, Liaison for the Cotati Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Cotati Library Advisory Board and a board member of the Redwood Empire Municipal Insurance Fund as well as the California Intergovernmental Risk Authority.

Despite unprecedented challenges including wildfires, financial instability and the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Moore has remained steadfast in his commitment to Cotati. He has routinely fought for improved public infrastructure and a balanced budget. As a delegate for the North Bay Labor Council and the District Bargaining Unit Representative for the Service Employees International Union Local 1000, Mr. Moore has also been a champion for workers' rights.

Outside of public service, Mr. Moore is an executive with the Rohnert Park branch of the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

He is the proud husband of Lisa, father of Richard, Rachel and Riley and brother of ten.

Madam Speaker, I thank Councilmember Moore for his years of selfless service and commitment to his community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I was unavailable, and I missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 501; NAY on Roll Call No. 502; NAY on Roll Call No. 503; YEA on Roll Call No. 504; YEA on Roll Call No. 505; YEA on Roll Call No. 506; YEA on Roll Call No. 507; YEA on Roll Call No. 508; YEA on Roll Call No. 509; YEA on Roll Call No. 510; YEA on Roll Call No. 511; and NAY on Roll Call No. 512.

HONORING MAJOR DOMINICK
VITALE UPON RECEIVING THE
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Dominick Vitale of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

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On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Dominick Vitale of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
THOMAS KAYSER

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Mr. Thomas Kayser, of Saint Paul, Minnesota, who passed away on November 15, 2022.

Tom was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force. After graduating from Lawrence University, he served on active duty for eight years and as a reserve officer for 16 years, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He met his wife, Marlene Kayser, on a blind date, they married in 1959 and had three children, Carol, Tom and David. In 1966 they moved to Saint Paul when Tom joined the law firm, Robins, Davis and Lyons, where he worked for over 50 years and went on to become the managing partner. During his time at the law firm, which eventually became Robins, Kaplan, Miller, and Ciresi, he often served as a volunteer attorney, including for the Minnesota ACLU, and received many honors, in-

cluding being named Volunteer of the Year by the Volunteer Lawyers Network in 2007.

Tom and his wife, Marlene, who passed away in 2018, were both dedicated activists and volunteers in the community, supporting organizations like Planned Parenthood and the Advocates for Human Rights. They were also founding donors of Admission Possible, now known as College Possible, which is a national organization working to increase access to higher education for low-income students. At the Kayser family home the door was always open to generously give back to their neighbors. They were known for hosting fundraising events in their home and even in their backyard for nonprofit organizations, candidates and elected officials ranging from United States presidents to school board members. Tom and Marlene served as a host family to many international students and connected countless community leaders, and Tom also served as a board member and advisor for the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy, and as an appointed representative on the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission, where he also served as vice chair and committee chair.

It was an honor to call Tom a friend and neighbor for many years. My deepest condolences are with his beloved family and many friends. Madam Speaker, please join me in tribute to Thomas Kayser for his remarkable life of service to our nation and our community.

RECOGNIZING MRS. SONIA PÉREZ,
PRESIDENT, UPON HER RETIRE-
MENT AND 43 YEARS OF SERV-
ICE AT AT&T—SOUTHEAST
STATES

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sonia Pérez as she prepares to retire after 43 successful years of service. Throughout her long career, she ultimately was responsible for leading and executing the overall strategic direction of AT&T's corporate initiatives throughout Louisiana and Kentucky. Her teams engage the collective governmental ecosystem at the state, local, and federal level to build technology infrastructure that solves economic challenges faced by urban and rural communities.

Based in Baton Rouge, Sonia has led on strategy, governance and social responsibility issues within the private sector and the nonprofit organizations she has chaired since she moved to Louisiana as the AT&T state president in 2010, and previously in Texas. Outside of her work AT&T Sonia serves as an Independent Director for Hancock Whitney Corporation (NASDAQ: HWC), and on the executive committees of The University of Texas Foundation, the Louisiana Board of Regents, and The National WWII Museum.

Sonia remains engaged with her alma mater, The University of Texas at Austin, and was selected as a 2017 Distinguished Alumnus; having also previously received the Outstanding Young Texas Ex Award. In 2006, she was the first Latina elected president of the Texas Exes, the university's alumni associa-

tion. Among her proudest distinctions is a 1996 presidential appointment by President Bill Clinton to the Advisory Council of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission, a binational organization supporting the sustainable development of environmental infrastructure on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border. She was also recognized in 2006 with the El Abre Caminos Award from the Texas Mexican American Legislative Caucus.

She has chaired various boards including the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the state's business roundtable known as the Committee of 100, and the Board of Trustees of my Alma Mater, Xavier University of Louisiana. She also led Governor John Bel Edwards' Economic Development Transition Team and is a member of the governor's Resilient Louisiana Commission. In 2018, Sonia was named to the Merit Selection Panel for the United States District Court Eastern District of Louisiana. She has also served on the national board of the Public Broadcasting Service, PBS.

Prior to being named the first woman president of AT&T Louisiana in 2010, Sonia worked in various capacities in Houston and South Texas, including as a vice president of AT&T Texas, where she was responsible for the company's initiatives throughout the Houston region. During that time, she was named the Houston Hispanic Chamber's Female Senior Executive of the Year, and served on the Houston board of J.P. Morgan Chase, and the executive committees of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Houston Partnership. She was also a member of the Memorial Hermann Hospital System Board of Directors.

Sonia has received numerous awards and distinctions including Top 100 Most Influential Latinas in 2020 by Latino Leaders Magazine, LatinaStyle Magazine 2014 Corporate Executives of the Year, 2013 Inspiración Award from the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Louisiana, 2015 Weiss Award from the New Orleans Council for Community and Justice, 2015 Role Model from the Young Leadership Council of New Orleans.

On a more personal note, Ms. Perez was someone I truly appreciated working with across New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and her leadership will truly be missed. Congratulations to Sonia as she enjoys the best days of her life in retirement.

DACA

SPEECH OF

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here today, to help highlight the incredible contributions that DACA recipients have made to our country and my district.

There are over 800,000 DACA recipients across the country, and over 200,000 of them live in California.

Today, I want to highlight a very special DREAMER in my district.

A young lady named Mayra Garibo from Wilmington, California.

Mayra's mother brought her and her little brother to the U.S. from Mexico when she was just 7 years old.

When it came time for Mayra to attend college, her mother struggled to find the resources to help pay for her tuition.

But because of DACA, Mayra was able to attend and pay for college, and eventually graduated from California State University Dominguez Hills, with a degree in Business Administration.

With her degree in hand, Mayra was able to pursue her dream of working in content creation, while also having peace in knowing that DACA would protect her against deportation.

In 2017, Mayra unfortunately lost her father, who lived in Mexico.

After a 3 year-long battle, she obtained Advance Parole, and received a travel permit to visit Mexico, to finally visit her father's grave and mourn his passing in-person.

This was the first time in 20 years that Mayra was able to return to Mexico.

Mayra's talent continued to shine through, and her persistence and resilience paid off.

With the help of Advanced Parole, she was able to further her career as a content creator, by seeking life changing job opportunities.

She was able to travel and work in London and other places, where she did content creation for films that were eventually nominated for awards at film festivals.

Mayra now works for the Long Beach Immigration Rights Coalition.

Recently, while taking photos of graduates of the Coalition's Leadership Academy Program, she met and was moved by the story of another young DACA recipient.

Mayra understood their struggle, and realized that she shared a common bond.

Mayra's job has given her the opportunity to capture the stories of those who have struggled to be an immigrant in this country. It has allowed her to change the all-too-common narrative about immigrants, to one that depicts immigrants as resilient and capable of moving forward in difficult situations.

When Mayra returned to the U.S. from her visit to Mexico and Europe, she was met with two signs each time.

One said U.S. citizens to the right and the other, non-citizens to the left.

When Mayra encountered these signs, she said to herself:

I know I have a permit to re-enter the country, but my reentry is not guaranteed.

I begin to pray to God hoping I say the right things, and that I don't face an officer who isn't going to know what advance parole is.

It's a feeling that is difficult to explain, you know you haven't done anything, yet you have to convince someone to let you into the country that you call your home."

Mayra is just one of many DREAMERS who have made incredible contributions to our nation.

She hopes that one day, she will be able to step to the right.

The time is now for my Republican colleagues and the Senate to pass legislation that will provide permanent protections for DACA recipients and DREAMERS in this country.

We can't wait any longer.

Because your home is here (Porque su hogar esta aqui). Forever (Para siempre).

HONORING MAJOR DREW DELA CRUZ UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Drew Dela Cruz of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Drew Dela Cruz epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Drew Dela Cruz of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING U.S. NAVY AND MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD VETERAN JIMMY SPARKS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of U.S. Navy and Mississippi Army National Guard Veteran Jimmy Sparks. Throughout his long and distinguished career in the military, Mr. Sparks devoted himself to serve our great Nation. Additionally, he is an outstanding volunteer driver for Lee County Veterans Services. He embodies all the characteristics that make us proud to be Americans.

On October 3, 1944, Mr. Sparks was born in Iuka. He was one of seven children who picked cotton to help support their family, who were sharecroppers. Eventually, the family moved to West Memphis, Arkansas, and Sallis, Mississippi.

In 1963, Mr. Sparks embarked on a new adventure by enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He was

assigned to the USS Midway (CVA-41), an aircraft carrier. The second aircraft carrier was the USS Coral Sea (CVA-43). Mr. Sparks was assigned to the fighter squadron on both aircraft carriers, serving as an aviation storekeeper. He said the first North Vietnamese MiG-17 to be shot down during the Vietnam War was by the Phantoms of Fighter Squadron 21 from the USS Midway carrier—on June 17, 1965.

In 1967, Mr. Sparks completed active duty and entered the U.S. Navy Reserve for one year. In 1974, Mr. Sparks joined the Mississippi Army National Guard, where he served with the 123rd Medivac. During his time with the Guard, his duties included maintaining armor and supply, driving a fuel truck, and motor maintenance. He retired as an E-7. Mr. Sparks served 31 years in the Mississippi Army National Guard. In later years, the 123rd Medivac changed to the 185th Aviation Battalion.

While serving in the Guard, Mr. Sparks worked for 21 years for Cooper Tire. In 2006, he retired. In 2007, Mr. Sparks learned there was a need for a driver to support services offered by the Lee County Veterans Services Officer. Soon thereafter, he became a volunteer driver. He was one of several volunteer drivers during that time who drove Veterans 1-3 times a week to the Memphis VA Medical Center.

Mr. Sparks has been recognized numerous times for his community service. In 2010, Mr. Sparks was recognized by the Lee County Board of Supervisors for his outstanding service for giving back to Veterans for what they have given to America. In 2015, Mr. Sparks received the "President's Lifetime Achievement Award" for his volunteer work. In 2020, Mr. Sparks was recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as the Memphis VA Medical Center Voluntary Services "2019-2020 Volunteer Driver of the Year".

To date, Mr. Sparks has devoted 7,500 hours to his fellow Veterans. He drives approximately 160 Veterans to and from Memphis over one year. Mr. Sparks has logged approximately 200,000 miles during his fifteen years of driving to the VA.

We are thankful for Mr. Sparks' service to America and for his steadfast devotion to the ensure Veterans have access to medical services. These men and women have earned and deserve the best available care. We wish the continued success of Mr. Sparks' volunteer work. Additionally, we want to recognize his wife, Nancy, and their children: Rusty Sparks (Beverly) and Jennifer (Terry) Merrell. Mr. and Mrs. Sparks have four grandchildren: Grace Sparks, Brenden Sparks, Kade (Cheyenne) Merrell, and Shelby (Marcus) Gray. The Lee County Sheriffs Department is commended for allowing the Lee County Veterans Services van to be safely parked and monitored at their Tupelo facility.

RECOGNIZING MRS. COLLEEN CURTIS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Colleen Curtis on

her retirement as Chief Executive Officer of United Health Centers of San Joaquin Valley.

Founded in 1971, United Health Centers (UHC) has become one of the largest and most important healthcare providers in the Central Valley. Rural communities like many of those found in the Valley are often overlooked when it comes to accessing health services. UHC plays a critical role in ensuring those in rural and underserved communities receive the healthcare they deserve.

Mrs. Curtis has been with UHC for 20 years, beginning her career in 2002. In 2009, she became the organization's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and helped to expand UHC's presence in the Central Valley. Throughout her 14 years as CEO, the organization continued to grow, expanding the number of centers to 28 across the Valley. Today, UHC provides medical services for over 165,000 patients through its over 1,000 employees, and last year completed nearly 1,000,000 patient visits.

Mrs. Curtis has consistently demonstrated her professionalism, dedication, and competency as an executive throughout her time leading UHC. She has been a constant source of stability and leadership, helping to guide the organization through unstable economic times and a global pandemic—all while continuing to expand and improve services for Central Valley residents. Her colleagues have described Mrs. Curtis as a "powerhouse in the healthcare industry" and I could not agree more.

I ask all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Colleen Curtis on her 20 years of success at United Health Centers and wishing her a happy and well-earned retirement.

HONORING SUPERVISOR DIANE
DILLON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon in honor of her retirement and service to our community.

Ms. Dillon was born and grew up in Napa, California and graduated from Napa High School in 1970. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1975, a Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1977 and a law degree from the University of California, Davis in 1981.

From 1981 to 2002, Ms. Dillon practiced law in Napa County, working as a partner with Coombs & Dunlap, LLP for eighteen years and specializing in estate planning, probate and trust administration. During this time, she also served as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Calistoga. In 2002, Ms. Dillon was elected to the Napa County Board of Supervisors to represent the 3rd District. Four years later, she became the first female supervisor in the Board's history to be re-elected.

As a supervisor, Ms. Dillon has worked tirelessly to promote conservation, support Napa County's agricultural community and limit the impact of wildfires. She helped establish the

first countywide fire hazard abatement ordinance in California and increased interest in the Napa County Firewise Foundation. Ms. Dillon also successfully advocated for \$1 billion in funding for wildfire prevention and management from the state legislature. In 2018, Ms. Dillon helped form the "Joint Local Governments," a movement led by Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties as well as the City of Santa Rosa to provide formal legal representation at the California Public Utilities Commission in response to PG&E action. In the face of unprecedented challenges including the 2015 Napa Earthquake, 2017 Northern California wildfires, 2020 LNU Lightning Complex fires and COVID-19 Pandemic, Ms. Dillon remained resolute in her commitment to help Napa County rebuild and recover.

Ms. Dillon has served on numerous boards and committees including the Rural County Representatives of California, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the North Bay/North Coast Broadband Consortium. She is a member of the California Library Association, Rotary Club of St. Helena, Napa County Historical Society and a founder of California Women Lawyers, the largest association of women lawyers in the United States. Ms. Dillon is the proud wife of Bill Moseley and mother of Jake and Nick.

Madam Speaker, Supervisor Dillon is deeply appreciated for her decades of selfless service and commitment to the people of Napa County. Her efforts have made our county a safer and more enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING DR. KELLI WARD,
CHAIRWOMAN OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ARIZONA

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow doctor and the great chairwoman of the Republican Party of Arizona, Dr. Kelli Ward.

Kelli and I share a similar story. We got into medicine in order to help others lead healthier lives. The last thing on our minds was serving in politics. Around the same time—after seeing the disastrous fall into socialism after President Obama's first election, we both felt the call to defend and serve the people of the greatest country on Earth.

After a successful stint in the Arizona Senate and a near historic upset of Senator John McCain in the 2016 Republican Senate primary, Kelli set her sights on the chairmanship of the Arizona Republican party, winning in 2019 and earning reelection in 2021.

Kelli's tenure as chairwoman has been nothing short of spectacular. She led the charge in defiance of unconstitutional and abusive COVID-19 lockdowns and vaccine mandates. She was also one of the few activists willing to highlight and condemn the many instances of clear and significant voter fraud perpetrated in the 2020 elections. She even wrote a bestselling book about it. She also played an instrumental role in ensuring a successful audit of Maricopa County's disastrous election management.

Kelli created enthusiasm with our grass roots. She was relentless in her efforts to grow the party and register voters. She kept her politics conservative, but she gave her time liberally. She attended meetings across the state and kept a schedule few could match. She was tireless in her focus and getting the job done. Without her, many elections would have been lost and through her efforts she was able to stem otherwise insurmountable odds against candidates. In short, against difficult circumstances, she never gave up and helped many successful candidates.

Her work was noticed from the local chapters up to the White House. President Trump has Kelli on speed dial and seeks her counsel regularly.

I consider Kelli, and her husband Mike, friends. I hired their daughter Katie to work in my office. Like her parents, she was a joy to have. Lake Havasu and Arizona are blessed to have the talent and dedication of Kelli and Mike.

Like so many Americans—whether they be Steve Bannon, Michael Flynn, Mike Lindell, Mark Meadows, peaceful pro-life and election protestors, parents disgusted by sexual indoctrination, or even the former President, Kelli is facing persecution for her political beliefs through a Soviet-style weaponization of the federal justice system. It is wrong. It must end. But it will not tarnish the stellar reputation and career of Kelli Ward. My message is one that is unnecessary for a warrior like Kelli but I will say it anyway. Keep fighting. Her country needs her.

And thank you for all your work and sacrifice.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN ALEXIS SANCHEZ UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and

lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Alexis Sanchez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING STEVE LEONARD

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a great community leader and a dear friend to so many of us here in Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, Steve Leonard.

A native of Greenfield, Steve has been an active member of our community and his leadership will be forever missed. Steve retired from a nearly 40-year career at Eli Lilly a few years ago, and, until his passing, served as the Center Township Trustee and Chairman of the Hancock County Republican Party.

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Steve could tell of a friendship with a truly honorable, decent man whose kindness and generosity will not soon be forgotten. Even throughout his health battle, Steve never failed to put others first and remained a dependable leader who fulfilled his responsibilities with dignity and grace.

Steve's example will serve as a blessing to his family and continue to inspire those of us who had the honor of calling him a friend. Our prayers continue to be with Steve's family; his wife, Janet; sons, Steven and Bryan; and daughter, Kimberly.

It is my pleasure to honor my friend, Steve Leonard.

CONGRATULATING BARBARA MORRIS-LENT

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Morris-Lent.

Barbara's late husband, Norman F. Lent, served as a member of this body from 1971 to 1993. Barbara is a past President of the Republican Congressional Spouse Club and has served faithfully as Secretary-Treasurer for over 30 years.

Barbara worked for Verizon until her recent retirement and has served on the board of the Congressional Institute for many years. Barbara has also played a major role in the Auxiliary of the Former Members Association on behalf of the Republican Congressional Spouse Club, for which we are very grateful.

I thank Barbara for all her hard work and dedication to the Club. Her many years of service will fondly be remembered by all who have had the pleasure of working alongside her to help make this institution all it can be.

RECOGNIZING BEXAR COUNTY JUDGE NELSON W. WOLFF

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff and his more than half a century of service to the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. Judge Wolff will step down from his position at the end of this year. I would like to congratulate him on a highly distinguished career and wish him the very best in the next chapter of his life.

Judge Wolff was first elected to public office in 1971 when he won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives. He would then be elected to the Texas Senate and the San Antonio City Council before serving as Mayor of San Antonio from 1991 to 1995. He was appointed Bexar County Judge in 2001, a position he would be elected to five times.

Throughout his decades in public service, Judge Wolff has spearheaded efforts to strengthen economic and workforce development, improve public services, invest in public education, and build out critical infrastructure. He helped found our nation's first all-digital public library, established a \$1 million fund to spur growth in the local tech sector, and paved the way for the San Antonio Missions to receive a UNESCO designation.

As Bexar County Judge, Judge Wolff has been a tireless advocate for public safety. He has paired strong investments in law enforcement with commonsense criminal justice reforms aimed at helping those with mental health and drug dependency issues.

On behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I would like to congratulate Judge Wolff once again on a well-deserved retirement and thank him for his decades of service. It is an honor to call him not only a colleague, but a friend. I wish Judge Wolff, his wife Tracy, and his six children all the best in the next chapter of his life.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN KIMBERLY HEISER UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobil-

ity Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Kimberly Heiser of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING JUDGE RICHARD BALL UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE BENCH

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, it is with the utmost appreciation for his distinguished career and life of service that I rise today to honor Judge Richard Ball of East Lansing. After three decades on the bench and nearly 20 years of service in the Michigan National Guard, I extend my congratulations to Judge Ball on his retirement and express my deep gratitude to him for his tireless efforts to preserve and promote justice and equality in Michigan, particularly in the veteran community.

Judge Ball, a proud graduate of Michigan State University and Thomas Cooley Law School, began dedicating himself to the public good shortly after completing his undergraduate degree in 1972, when he joined the Michigan National Guard. During his 19 years with the Guard, he completed law school and began working in private practice, and also rose to the rank of Major, serving as a Staff Judge Advocate General. In 1993, Judge Ball was elected to the East Lansing 54B Circuit Court, where he has served for nearly 30 years.

As a veteran himself, Judge Ball was quick to recognize that military life has many lasting effects on those who serve, and in 2013 he began serving as the presiding judge for the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court. This model specialty court is a program that promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability for veterans by coordinating treatment and combining it with accountability based on the veteran's specific needs. During his time on the bench, this program has provided direct services for nearly 250 local veterans, indirect services for dozens more, and sports a remarkable graduation rate of 82 percent.

In his nearly 50 years of public and community service, Judge Ball has been a beacon of light for so many in the veteran community. His unshakable belief in the principles of fairness, justice, and compassion have served as

an inspiring example to all. I am so grateful for his lifetime of advocacy, leadership, and service, and his passion for helping veterans in need. I extend my best wishes for happiness, health, and many Spartan victories in his retirement. The legacy of his life of service, his exemplary career, and his compassion for the plight of those who serve will live on in the hearts and lives of all those he reached, in the foundation he built with the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court, and here, in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING DR. ALINA ALONSO

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Alina Alonso, a distinguished and fearless health care leader. I thank her as she retires as Director of the Florida Health Department of Palm Beach County and wish her great joy on her next journey.

Dr. Alonso has served Palm Beach County for over 33 years, including as its Director of our Health Department for the last 13. Using her training in Bio-Chemical Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction, she handled the first inhalation of anthrax case in recent U.S. history. More recently, Dr. Alonso selflessly guided our community through the darkest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, setting up testing, treatment, and vaccination sites throughout Palm Beach County, working closely with local leaders, and reaching underserved areas.

Since becoming Director of the Health Department in 2009, Dr. Alonso has overseen the operations of one of the largest county health departments in the State of Florida. With over 720 employees, the Palm Beach County Health Department provides a full range of primary and preventative services to seven health centers located throughout Palm Beach County. Epidemiology, Communicable Disease Control, and Emergency Preparedness are a few Public Health services offered by the Health Department, making it a nationally recognized academic organization in a class by itself.

Dr. Alonso proudly combines her Cuban heritage and her experience and training in Mexico and Central America to stay active in patients' rights advocacy, minority health issues, cultural diversity, population health, and health equity. As an immigrant from Cuba, she has stated that being an immigrant was a push to keep reaching higher. Dr. Alonso has won numerous awards and recognitions in her many years of Public Health service. In March 2022, she was named one of USA Today's "Women of the Year."

Dr. Alonso's dedication to health care access and her service to the people of South Florida is truly admirable. I feel blessed to have worked with her and to get to know her beautiful heart and see first-hand her dedication and excellence. I am proud to honor her today, thank her for her service, and wish her the very best for a future filled with great health and happiness.

HONORING MAYOR MARK LANDMAN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Landman of Cotati, California in honor of his retirement and thirteen years as a council member and mayor.

Mr. Landman was born in San Francisco, California. Following his graduation from the College of Marin, where he studied Fire Science, Mr. Landman completed a Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic Program at Stanford University. As one of the first ten paramedics in Marin County, Mr. Landman worked in the fire service for decades, serving as Chair of the Marin Paramedic Advisory Committee, Vice President of Novato Professional Firefighters and on the National Fire Protection Association Contract Negotiation Team.

In 2008, Mr. Landman was elected to the Cotati City Council. During his tenure, Mr. Landman led efforts to reduce speeding, keep out-of-town trucks from using local roads and renovate the Cotati Rose Garden. His steadfast support of the Cotati Police Department has significantly enhanced community safety and his commitment to careful spending has led to a balanced budget for more than a decade. As chair of the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, he played a key role in expanding Highway 101 and paved the way for countless other projects. Mr. Landman was an important figure in Cotati being the first city in Sonoma County to transition its police fleet to all electric vehicles. Mr. Landman is a three-time Mayor of Cotati, former Local Agency Formation Commissioner and a 2015 Cotati "Citizen of the Year".

In addition to his work as a public servant, Mr. Landman has been a prominent supporter of many nonprofits and local organizations. As Chair of the Russian River Watershed Association, he helped bring safe medicines to the region and remove unused pills from watersheds across Sonoma County. He has also served on the boards of the Cotati Arts Program and Sonoma Clean Power.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mayor Landman for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Cotati. His efforts have made Cotati a safer, greener and more prosperous city. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MARIO HERNANDEZ UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Mario Hernandez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guar-

antee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Mario Hernandez epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Mario Hernandez of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING GILLETTE CHILDREN'S SPECIALTY HEALTHCARE ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare of Saint Paul, Minnesota on its 125th anniversary of providing world class, compassionate care for children and their families.

Founders Jessie Haskins and Dr. Arthur Gillette recognized the need for a place where children with disabilities could receive state-of-the-art care made specifically for their needs. In 1897, the Minnesota legislature created what would later become Gillette Children's Hospital, the first institution in the United States to focus exclusively on treating children with disabilities. Today, Gillette is celebrating 125 years of outstanding, groundbreaking treatment of children in our community and from around the world.

Gillette Children's serves an important calling in our state and nation. By focusing on what a child is capable of, rather than the ways they are limited, Gillette Children's makes the difference in how a child will recover and grow after receiving care. In its 125 years of existence, Gillette Children's has improved the lives of countless children and their families from around the world.

Gillette Children's is not just a hospital. It is a special place that fosters a healing environment for its patients and their families. By providing care through adulthood, Gillette Children's creates deep and meaningful bonds between the children, physicians, staff, and volunteers that last a lifetime. This unique approach to treatment is one of the many reasons why Gillette Children's stands out as an

extraordinary example of excellence in care and community stewardship.

Gillette Children's provides modern care in an ever-changing world. By remaining on the cutting edge of technology, Gillette Children's stands alone in its ability to treat young patients who experience the most complex, traumatic, and rare conditions. When a child is referred to Gillette Children's, it is because they require specialized care by top experts in the field, and each patient receives nothing less. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Gillette Children's remained steadfast in their commitment to treating patients in a safe environment, pausing procedures when necessary and now proudly offering vaccines for the youngest and most vulnerable Minnesotans.

Since its founding, Gillette Children's has structured its care model around each child's specific needs, bringing together experts from many areas to address these needs at once—sometimes even in one visit. Each child's emotional wellbeing remains at the core of Gillette Children's approach to care, and we are so fortunate to have a committed, compassionate care center in our backyard.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the 125th anniversary of Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare for all that it does to improve the lives of children.

HONORING FRANKIE HARDAWAY

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Frankie Hardaway. Frankie was a community-oriented woman who led a fulfilling life and broke barriers in her career.

Frankie was born on March 29, 1934, in Augusta, GA to Alonso and Alma Gadley. She moved to Philadelphia, PA with her family in 1942. Frankie graduated from West Philadelphia High School in 1953 and became a Practical Nurse. She married Lucius Hardaway in 1956 and together they had three sons.

In 1977, Frankie joined Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) as a trolley operator. In 1982, she completed a month-long training program and became the company's first female train operator. SEPTA described her as a "legend", she was a trailblazer in her field. She faced many obstacles during her training period. She handled them with dignity and class and became a well-respected peer amongst the train-operator community. Mrs. Hardaway retired from SEPTA in 1999 having held a groundbreaking career. She understood that being the first in her field would be difficult but an important task to ensure opportunities for those who would follow.

Outside of her career with SEPTA, Frankie was an established businesswoman who owned a dry-cleaning business with her husband, she was a seamstress and worked for the Internal Revenue Service performing data entry tasks. In her spare time, Frankie loved to read and stay active and engaged in the community.

Frankie passed away on November 10, 2022, peacefully at home surrounded by family. She was a loving matriarch, friend and relative who exuded a generous spirit and devo-

tion to others. The 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania mourns with her family and extends our sincere appreciation to her accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAJOR GENERAL DAVID F. WHERLEY, JR., DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD RETENTION AND COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAM ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program Act. This bill would permanently authorize funding for the Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., District of Columbia National Guard Retention and College Access Program, which provides tuition and other financial assistance for higher education to members of the D.C. National Guard, which is an exclusively federal entity.

This program and bill are named for Major General David F. Wherley, Jr., former Commanding General of the D.C. National Guard, who, along with his wife, Ann, and seven others were tragically killed when Metro trains collided on the Red Line on June 22, 2009. I renamed this bill after Major General Wherley because he worked tirelessly with me for many years to get funding for this program, and because of his devotion to D.C. youth and to the D.C. National Guard.

This program was recommended by Major General Wherley and his successor at the D.C. National Guard, Major General Errol Schwartz, to stem the troublesome loss of D.C. National Guard members to other units, including National Guards in surrounding states that offer assistance for higher education to their members. I am grateful that Congress has consistently provided funding for this program, most recently \$600,000 in fiscal year 2022. Permanently authorizing this program will help ensure that members of the D.C. National Guard receive the same benefits as members of other National Guards and help the D.C. National Guard recruit and retain members.

This program not only benefits D.C. National Guard members, the great majority of whom live in Maryland or Virginia, but also helps the D.C. National Guard to maintain the force necessary to protect the federal presence in D.C.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN DENIECE LOBBAN UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Deniece Lobban of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during

Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Deniece Lobban epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Deniece Lobban of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF LAWRENCE BUTLER, JR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, Lawrence Butler, Jr. was born in Natchez, Mississippi on November 25th to Ellen Shaw Butler and Lawrence Butler, Sr. He was the only son and the youngest of three children. He had two sisters: Clara Butler Watts and Regina Butler Davis. The family attended Greater Fatherland Baptist Church.

After attending Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he moved to Chicago, where he lived with his Uncle Harrison Shaw. Lawrence fell in love with Chicago and got busy making a life for himself in the Windy City. He began working as a bus driver for the Chicago Transit Authority but was drafted into the Army where he served as a military policeman. After serving his country, he returned to Chicago and joined the Chicago Police Department. He wore the badge with pride and honor for 34 years and enjoyed protecting and giving back to the city that he so cherished.

Lawrence's life truly began when he met and fell in love with a beautiful young lady by the name of Beverly. Lawrence and Beverly married on September 21, 1975. Shortly afterwards, Beverly and Lawrence purchased what would become their family home a beautiful old Victoria in the historical Austin Schock District.

Lawrence would spend the next several years working alongside his father-in-law to lovingly restore every square inch of the home

to the point of surpassing its former beauty. The house truly became a home when Beverly and Lawrence welcomed their first daughter, Mary-Ellen, soon followed by their second daughter, Hilaree.

His greatest source of pride was being the ever-present, unshakable force driving his family to excel. He lovingly encouraged and supported his wife as she advanced in her education and career. He set the bar of achievement high for his two daughters and challenged them to continue to push forward to reach even greater heights. Lawrence instilled a strong sense of self-worth in his children and constantly reminded his wife and daughters that the only limits to their successes would be those that they imposed on themselves.

Lawrence had a strong sense of humor and loved engaging in philosophical conversations. He was a free thinker who loved music and had an unyielding appreciation for the arts and creative expression. Lawrence laughed often and loved deeply. He was fixture in his community and the heartbeat of his family.

Lawrence was called home to eternity on November 6, 2022. He is preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence Sr. and Ellen.; and eldest sister, Clara; father-in-law, Nelroy; and other treasured loved ones. His memory will live on and be cherished by his loving wife of 47 years, his daughters, Hilaree and Mary-Ellen, his son-in-law Julio; and a host of loved ones.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MICHELLE
ROMAN

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Michelle Roman for her 11 years of service on the Kingsburg City Council and congratulate her on her retirement.

A lifelong California resident, Mrs. Roman moved her family to Kingsburg in 1999. It was after her move that she truly discovered her passion for helping her community. As her children grew older and the encouragement of her friends and family members grew stronger, she decided to run for City Council to give the children and families of Kingsburg a voice in the local government.

Mrs. Roman has now been on the Kingsburg City Council for over a decade, passionately advocating for her community. Not only has she represented her district, but she has also served as both the Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor of Kingsburg—the first woman to hold either position. In her role as Mayor of Kingsburg, Mrs. Roman served as the public face of Kingsburg, presided over City Council meetings, and continually fought to improve her community in any way she could.

Under her leadership, Kingsburg has seen incredible development. From building the city's first skateboard park to founding the Kingsburg Youth Council, to helping enact city policies that attract businesses to her community, Mrs. Roman has played a key role in improving the lives of Kingsburg residents. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was an essential liaison between State and County officials and helped to secure grants that saved local businesses as well as a vaccination clinic that helped to save many lives.

Mrs. Roman has been a true public servant for her community and has repeatedly demonstrated her commitment to making Kingsburg a safe, prosperous, and welcoming place to call home. I wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mrs. Michelle Roman for all she has accomplished during her 11 years of service to the City of Kingsburg.

HONORING MAYOR GEOFF
ELLSWORTH

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Geoff Ellsworth in honor of his outstanding service to the people of St. Helena, California.

Mr. Ellsworth was born in Vallejo, California and grew up in St. Helena. After graduating from Justin-Siena High School in Napa, he attended the University of Oregon, and worked with his parents Bob and Pheobe Ellsworth at their winery supply company, Compleat Winemaker. Mr. Ellsworth was elected to the St. Helena City Council in 2016 and became Mayor in 2018.

During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Ellsworth has led St. Helena through unprecedented challenges including devastating wildfires and the COVID-19 emergency. In response, Mr. Ellsworth worked with PG&E to build new transmission lines, supported a restructuring of the city's fire department and enhanced social services during the pandemic. With his help, the city also established internal financial controls, advanced a comprehensive housing strategy and the city also passed the General Plan after more than a decade of delays. Mr. Ellsworth worked with the City Council to ensure they continued awarding \$200,000 annually to non-profits that supported the city's most vulnerable residents.

Mr. Ellsworth has represented St. Helena as a member of the Napa County League of Governments, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority, and the Napa County Watershed Information Center and Conservancy. Additionally, he has served on numerous boards and committees including the League of California Cit-

ies, the Napa County City Selection Committee, and the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Outside of his work as a civil servant, Mr. Ellsworth is a renowned artist and musician of over 30 years, having traveled across the United States. He loves being around animals, is an avid reader, and is a frequent volunteer with local organizations.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Ellsworth for his commitment to the people of St. Helena. His efforts have made our community a safer, greener, and more enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN MATTHEW WILLIAMS UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Senior Airman Matthew Williams of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Senior Airman Matthew Williams epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Senior Airman Matthew Williams of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.